



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11) Publication number : 0 560 519 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number : 93301511.7

(51) Int. Cl.⁵ : C11D 3/37

(22) Date of filing : 26.02.93

(30) Priority : 10.03.92 US 848908
10.03.92 US 848802

(43) Date of publication of application :
15.09.93 Bulletin 93/37

(84) Designated Contracting States :
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC
NL PT SE

(71) Applicant : ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY
Independence Mall West
Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19105 (US)

(72) Inventor : Adler, David Elliott
3209 Ayr Lane
Dresher, Pennsylvania 19025 (US)
Inventor : Shulman, Jan Edward
8 Hibiscus Place
Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940 (US)
Inventor : McCallum III, Thomas Francis
832 North Woodstock Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130 (US)
Inventor : Weinstein, Barry
419 Bluebird Lane
Dresher, Pennsylvania 19025 (US)

(74) Representative : Tanner, James Percival et al
ROHM AND HAAS (UK) LTD. European
Operations Patent Department Lennig House
2 Mason's Avenue
Croydon CR9 3NB (GB)

(54) Use of water-soluble polymers in cleaning compositions, and water-soluble polymers for such use.

(57) The invention provides a method of enhancing the filming and spotting characteristics of cleaning compositions, for example hard surface cleaners and automatic machine dishwashing formulations, by incorporating into the compositions polymers containing, as polymerized units, (a) one or more monomer selected from C₃-C₆ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof, (b) one or more an-aminoacryloyl derivative, and (c) optionally, one or more monoethylenically unsaturated monomer polymerisable with (a) and (b). The invention also provides polymers suitable for use in such method.

EP 0 560 519 A2

The present invention is concerned with the use of polymers comprising, as polymerized units, (a) one or more monomer selected from C₃-C₆ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof, (b) one or more aminoacryloyl derivative, and (c) optionally, one or more monomer polymerisable with (a) and (b), as additives for cleaning formulations such as hard surface cleaner formulations and particularly automatic machine dishwashing detergent formulations. The polymers improve the spotting and filming characteristics (i.e. reduce spotting and filming) of cleaning formulations such as automatic machine dishwashing detergents. The present invention is also concerned with polymers containing, as polymerized units, (a) one or more monomer selected from C₃-C₆ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof, (b) one or more aminoacryloyl derivative, and (c) one or more monomer polymerisable with (a) and (b).

Polymeric additives are used in automatic machine dishwashing detergent formulations as phosphate substitutes, builders, thickeners, processing aids, film-control agents and spot-control agents. Unlike many other detergent formulations, it is critical that automatic machine dishwashing detergents are low foaming systems. Foam interferes with the mechanical washing action of the water which is sprayed in the machine. This requirement limits the types of polymeric additives and surfactants which can be used in an automatic machine dishwashing detergent formulation.

GB-B-2,104,091 discloses amphoteric copolymers containing as polymerized units cationic vinyl monomers and anionic vinyl monomers for use in detergent compositions. The mole ratio of cationic vinyl monomer to anionic vinyl monomer is from 1:99 to 99:1, and is preferably 20:80 to 80:20. The molecular weight of the polymers is from 1,000 to 3,000,000. All of the examples employ copolymers having a 1:1 molar ratio of cationic vinyl monomer to anionic vinyl monomer. The polymers are disclosed to be useful for enhancing the foaming power of surfactant-based liquid detergent compositions.

US-A-4,784,789 to Jeschke et al. discloses the use of certain copolymers for use in liquid hard-surface cleaner formulations to provide an anti-static finish on the surfaces. The polymers described therein are those taught by GB-B-2,104,091, discussed above, which contain at least one mole of nitrogen-containing acrylic acid derivative per mole of acrylic acid.

US-A-4,075,131 to Sterling discloses the use of zwitterionic copolymers for use in shampoos. The copolymers disclosed therein have a molar ratio of basic monomer to acidic monomer in the range of from 0.6:1 to 1.5:1.

US-A-4,534,892 to Suzuki et. al discloses the use of crosslinked copolymers of acidic and basic monomers as dispersants for water-insoluble fine powders in liquid detergents. It further discloses that the copolymers effectively disperse the solids without interfering with the foaming properties of the detergent compositions.

Japanese Patent Application 59-135293A discloses terpolymers comprising at least 10 mole percent of each of (1) an anionic vinyl monomer, (b) a cationic vinyl monomer, and (c) a nonionic vinyl monomer, wherein the molar ratio of anionic vinyl monomer to cationic vinyl monomer is from 1:2 to 2:1. It further discloses that the polymers increase the detergency of detergent compositions, especially when used with surfactants.

Development of machine dishwashing detergents using substitutes for phosphate containing compounds has been addressed in the patent literature. US-A-4,203,858 teaches using a low molecular weight polyacrylic acid in a phosphate free machine dishwashing composition. US-A-4,608,188 teaches the use of a maleic acid/ acrylic acid copolymer.

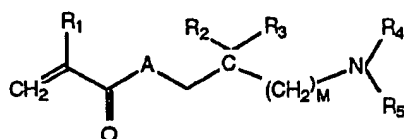
Other patents which include polymeric materials in dishwashing detergents are EP-A-0,132,792, DE-A-3627773, and GB-A-2,203,163. EP-A-0,132,792 teaches certain cleaning compositions for washing dishes in automatic dishwashers. The compositions contain from 1 to 8 weight percent of a polycarboxylic acid having a molecular weight of 12,000 to 40,000. In addition, the detergent contains surfactants and standard additives such as bleaching agents, biocides, perfumes, foaming-inhibitors, and /or solubilizers. The polymer can be poly(acrylic acid), poly(methacrylic acid), or polymers of maleic acid or fumaric acid and ethylene or propylene.

The present invention provides a method of enhancing the spotting and filming control of cleaning compositions, e.g. automatic machine dishwashing detergent formulations. The present invention also provides novel water-soluble polymers and a method for their preparation.

According to the present invention there is provided a method of improving the spotting and filming characteristics of cleaning compositions, e.g. automatic machine dishwashing detergents, which comprises adding to a cleaning composition, e.g. an automatic dishwashing detergent formulation, one or more water-soluble polymer comprising, as polymerized units:-

- (a) from 30 to 95 percent by weight of one or more monomer selected from C₃-C₆ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof; and
- (b) from 5 to 50 percent by weight of one or more aminoacryloyl derivative selected from:

(i)



wherein:

R₁ is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

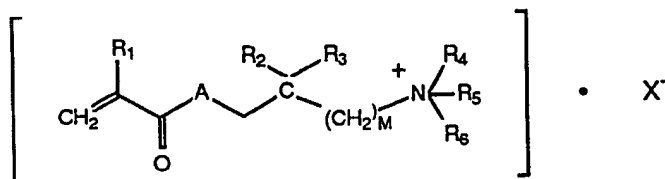
A is selected from O and NH;

R₂ and R₃ are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R₂ and R₃, together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a C₃-C₇ aliphatic ring;

M is equal to 0, 1, or 2 with the proviso that when M is equal to 0, a C-N bond appears in place of the (CH₂)_M group; and

R₄ and R₅ are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R₄ and R₅, together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a C₃-C₇ aliphatic ring;

and (ii)



wherein:

R₁, A, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and M are as defined above;

R₆ is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl;

and X is any suitable counterion such as a halogen, hydroxide, sulfate, hydrosulfate, phosphate, formate or acetate; and

(c) optionally, 3 to 25 percent by weight of one or more monoethylenically unsaturated monomer polymerisable with (a) and (b), with the proviso that, if (c) comprises one or more C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof, then said monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof is not the same as (a); in an amount effective to improve the spotting and filming characteristics.

In one aspect of the method of the present invention, the one or more water-soluble polymer comprises, as polymerized units and based on the weight of the polymer, from 95 to 60, preferably from 90 to 70, and most preferably from 90 to 75, percent by weight of the monomer(s) (a), and from 5 to 40, preferably from 10 to 30, and most preferably from 10 to 25, percent by weight of the aminoacryloyl derivative(s) (b). For example, the water-soluble polymer(s) may contain no monoethylenically unsaturated monomer(s) (c). In this aspect of the present invention, the relative amounts of components (a) and (b) are preferably in the molar ratio of from 4:1 to 150:1. More preferably, the molar ratio of component (a) to component (b) is from about 5:1 to about 100:1, and most preferably from about 10:1 to about 50:1.

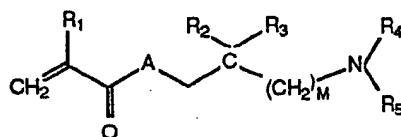
In another aspect of the method of the present invention, the one or more water-soluble polymer comprises, as polymerized units and based on the weight of the polymer, from 92 to 30, preferably from 85 to 40, and most preferably from 80 to 50, percent by weight of the monomer(s) (a), from 5 to 50, preferably from 5 to 40, and most preferably from 10 to 30, percent by weight of the aminoacryloyl derivative(s) (b), and from 3 to 25, preferably from 3 to 20, and most preferably from 5 to 20, percent by weight of the polymerisable monoethylenically unsaturated monomer(s) (c). In this aspect of the present invention, the relative amounts of components (a) and (b) are preferably in the molar ratio of from 2:1 to 100:1. More preferably, the molar ratio of component (a) to component (b) is from about 2.5:1 to about 90:1, and most preferably from about 3:1 to about 50:1.

The present invention also provides water-soluble polymers comprising, as polymerized units and based

on the weight of the polymer, (a) from 92 to 30, preferably from 85 to 40, and most preferably from 80 to 50, percent by weight of one or more monomer selected from C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof;

(b) from 5 to 50, preferably from 5 to 40, and most preferably from 10 to 30, percent by weight of one or more aminoacryloyl derivative selected from

i)



wherein:

R₁ is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

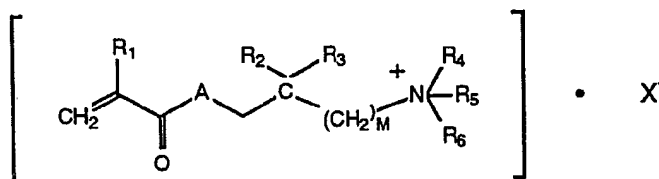
A is selected from O and NH;

R₂ and R₃ are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R₂ and R₃, together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a C₃-C₇ aliphatic ring;

M is equal to 0, 1, or 2 with the proviso that when M is equal to 0, a C-N bond appears in place of the (CH₂)_M group; and

R₄ and R₅ are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R₄ and R₅, together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a C₃-C₇ aliphatic ring;

and ii)



wherein:

R₁, A, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and M are as defined above;

R₆ is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl;

and X is any suitable counterion such as a halogen, hydroxide, sulfate, hydrosulfate, phosphate, formate or acetate; and

(c) from 3 to 25, preferably from 3 to 20, and most preferably from 5 to 20, percent by weight of one or more monoethylenically unsaturated monomer polymerisable with (a) and (b), with the proviso that, if (c) comprises one or more C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof, then said monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof is not the same as (a).

In the above polymers according to the invention, which comprise monomers (a), (b), and (c), the relative amounts of components (a) and (b) are preferably in the molar ratio of from 2:1 to 100:1. More preferably, the molar ratio of component (a) to component (b) is from about 2.5:1 to about 90:1, and most preferably from about 3:1 to about 50:1.

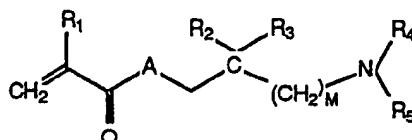
The present invention further provides a method of making a polymer as defined in the preceding two paragraphs, which comprises contacting a mixture of monomers (a), (b) and (c) with an initiator in an amount effective to polymerize said mixture, and maintaining the mixture at an elevated temperature to produce the polymer product. The method may further comprise utilizing one or more solvents, for example, water. In the method, one or more of (a), (b) and (c) may be fed to a reactor at an elevated temperature.

Component (a) is one or more monomer selected from C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof. Suitable carboxylic acids include monoethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids and monoethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids. Examples of suitable

monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids include, but are not limited to, acrylic acid (AA), methacrylic acid (MAA), α -ethacrylic acid, β , β -dimethylacrylic acid, methylenemalononic acid, vinylacetic acid, allylacetic acid, ethylideneacetic acid, propylideneacetic acid, crotonic acid, maleic acid (MALAC), maleic anhydride (MALAN), fumaric acid, itaconic acid, citraconic acid, mesaconic acid, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof. Preferably, the monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid(s) is/are selected from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof. More preferably, the monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid(s) is acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.

Component (b) is one or more aminoacryloyl derivative selected from:

(i)



wherein:

R_1 is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

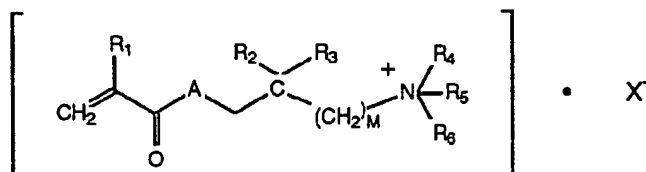
A is selected from O and NH;

R_2 and R_3 are each independently selected hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R_2 and R_3 , together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a C_3 - C_7 aliphatic ring;

M is equal to 0, 1, or 2 with the proviso that when M is equal to 0, a C-N bond appears in place of the $(\text{CH}_2)_M$ group; and

R_4 and R_5 are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R_4 and R_5 , together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a C_3 - C_7 aliphatic ring;

or (ii)



wherein:

R_1 , A, R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and M are as defined above;

R_6 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl;

and X is any suitable counterion such as a halogen, hydroxide, sulfate, hydrosulfate, phosphate, formate or acetate. Examples of component (b) include, but are not limited to, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate (DMAEA), N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate (DMAEMA), N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] acrylamide (DMAPA), N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] methacrylamide (DMPMA), tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate (t-BAEMA), (3-acrylamidopropyl)trimethylammonium chloride (APTAC), (3-methacrylamidopropyl)trimethylammonium chloride (MAPTAC), and N-[3-(dimethylamino)-2,2-dimethylpropyl]acrylamide (DMADM-PA). In one embodiment of the present invention, component (b) is selected from N,N-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, and tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate. In another embodiment of the present invention, component (b) is selected from N,N-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate and N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate. In a further embodiment of the present invention, component (b) is tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate. In a still further embodiment of the present invention, component (b) is selected from N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] acrylamide, N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] methacrylamide, (3-acrylamidopropyl)trimethylammonium chloride, (3-methacrylamidopropyl)trimethylammonium chloride, and N-[3-(dimethylamino)-2,2-dimethylpropyl]acrylamide. In a yet further embodiment of the present invention, component (b) is selected from N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] acrylamide, N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] methacrylamide and N-[3-(dimethylamino)-2,2-dimethylpropyl]acrylamide. In a yet further

embodiment of the invention, component (b) is selected from (3-acrylamidopropyl) trimethylammonium chloride and (3-methacrylamidopropyl) trimethylammonium chloride.

Component (c) is one or more monoethylenically unsaturated monomer which is polymerisable with components (a) and (b), with the proviso that, if (c) comprises one or more C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof, then said monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof is not the same as (a). Preferably, (c) is at least partially soluble in water or the reaction solvent, or in the other monomers if no water or solvent is used. Suitable monomers include any of the C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids and their alkali metal and ammonium salts used for component (a), with the proviso that, if (c) comprises one or more C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof, then said monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof is not the same as (a); C₁-C₄ alkyl esters of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid such as methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate (EA), butyl acrylate (BA), methyl methacrylate (MMA), and butyl methacrylate (BMA); C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl esters of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid such as hydroxyethyl acrylate (HEA), hydroxypropyl acrylate (HPA), and hydroxyethyl methacrylate (HEMA); acrylamide (AM); alkyl substituted acrylamides, such as methacrylamide (MAM), N-t-butylacrylamide (t-BAM) and N-t-octylacrylamide; N,N-dialkyl substituted acrylamides, such as N,N-dimethyl acrylamide and piperidineacrylamide; styrene; sulfonated styrene; sulfonated alkyl acrylamides, such as 2-acrylamidomethylpropane sulfonic acid (AMPSA); vinylsulfonates; vinylsulfonic acid; allylsulfonic acid; methallylsulfonic acid; vinylphosphonic acid; vinylacetate; allyl alcohols; sulfonated allyl alcohols; acrylonitrile; N-vinylpyrrolidone; N-vinylformamide; N-vinylimidazole; N-vinylpyridine; N-vinyl-2-methylimidazoline. In one embodiment of the invention, the monomer is acrylamide, C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids or alkali metal or ammonium salts thereof, C₁-C₄ alkyl esters of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, or C₁-C₄ hydroxyalkyl esters of acrylic acid. In another embodiment of the invention, component (c) is selected from methyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, t-butyl acrylamide, styrene and 2-acrylamido methylpropane sulfonic acid.

The polymers useful in the present invention can be made by methods of polymerization well known to those skilled in the art. They can be prepared by aqueous polymerization, solvent polymerization or bulk polymerization. Preferably, they are prepared by aqueous polymerization. Furthermore, the polymerization can be conducted as a batch, cofeed, heel, semi-continuous or continuous process. Preferably, the polymerization is conducted as a cofeed or continuous process.

When the polymers are prepared by a cofeed process, the initiator and monomers are generally introduced into the reaction mixture as separate streams which are fed linearly (i.e. at constant rates). If desired, the streams can be staggered so that one or more of the streams are completed before the others. If desired, a portion of the monomers or initiators may be added to the reactor before the feeds are begun. The monomers can be fed into the reaction mixture as individual streams or combined into one or more streams. Preferably, the monomer stream containing component (b) is not combined with the monomer stream containing component (a).

The initiators suitable for making the polymers are any of the conventional water-soluble free-radical initiators and redox initiators. Suitable free-radical initiators include, but are not limited to, peroxides, persulfates, peresters, and azo initiators. Suitable redox initiators include but are not limited to peroxides, such as hydrogen peroxide, and persulfates, such as sodium persulfate. Also, mixed initiator systems can be used such as a combination of a free radical initiator and a redox initiator. The level of initiator is generally from 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight based on the total amount of polymerisable monomers. Preferably, the initiator is present at a level of from about 1 to about 15 percent, and most preferably at a level of from about 2 to about 10 percent, by weight based on the total amount of polymerisable monomer.

In addition to the initiator, one or more promoters may also be used. Suitable promoters include water-soluble salts of metal ions. Suitable metal ions include iron, copper, cobalt, manganese, vanadium and nickel. Preferably, the one or more promoters are water-soluble salts of iron or copper. When used, the one or more promoters are present at levels of from about 1 to about 100 ppm based on the total amount of polymerisable monomer. Preferably, the one or more promoters are present at levels of from about 3 to about 20 ppm based on the total polymerisable monomers.

It is generally desirable to control the pH of the polymerizing monomer mixture especially when using thermal initiators such as persulfate salts. The pH of the polymerizing monomer mixture can be controlled by a buffer system or by the addition of a suitable acid or base and is preferably designed to maintain the pH of the system from between about 3 and about 8, and most preferably from between about 4 and about 6.5. Similarly, when redox couples are used there will be an optimum pH range in which to conduct the polymerization depending on the choice of the components of the redox couple. The pH of the system can be adjusted to suit the choice of the redox couple by the addition of an effective amount of a suitable acid or base.

When the polymerization is conducted as a solution polymerization employing a solvent other than water, the reaction should be conducted up to about 70 percent by weight, preferably from about 40 to about 60 percent by weight of polymerisable monomers based on the total reaction mixture. Similarly, when the polymerization is conducted as an aqueous polymerization, the reaction should be conducted up to about 70 percent by weight, preferably from about 40 to about 60 percent by weight of polymerisable monomers based on the total reaction mixture. In general, it is preferred to conduct the polymerizations as aqueous polymerizations. The solvents or water, if used, can be introduced into the reaction vessel as a heel charge, or can be fed into the reactor either as a separate feed stream or as a diluent for one of the other components being fed into the reactor.

The temperature of the polymerization reaction will depend on the choice of initiator, solvent and target molecular weight. Generally, the temperature of the polymerization is up to the boiling point of the system although the polymerization can be conducted under pressure if higher temperatures are used. Preferably, the temperature of the polymerization is from about 50 to about 95 °C and most preferably from about 60 to about 80 °C.

The polymers useful in the present invention are water-soluble. This limits the maximum molecular weight of the polymers. Furthermore, the limit of the molecular weight will vary depending upon the relative amounts, and the hydrophilicity, of the monomer components incorporated into the polymer. If desired, chain regulators or chain transfer agents may be employed to assist in controlling the molecular weight of the polymers. Any conventional water-soluble chain regulator or chain transfer agent can be used. Suitable chain regulators include, but are not limited to, mercaptans, hypophosphites, isoascorbic acid, alcohols, aldehydes, hydrosulfites and bisulfites. If a chain regulator or chain transfer agent is used, preferred mercaptans are 2-mercaptoethanol and 3-mercaptopropionic acid; a preferred bisulfite is sodium metabisulfite. Generally, the weight average molecular weight (M_w) of the polymers is from about 500 to about 100,000, preferably from about 750 to about 30,000, and most preferably from about 1,000 to about 25,000, as measured by aqueous gel permeation chromatography relative to a poly(acrylic acid) standard.

The concentration of polymer in a detergent composition, and particularly an automatic machine dishwashing detergent composition, is preferably from about 0.2 to 10 percent by weight of the composition, and more preferably from about 0.5 to 7 percent by weight. The concentration of the polymer in the detergent composition is dependent on the amount of other additives in the detergent composition which have an impact on the desired performance characteristics. For example, if a phosphate containing compound is present in the detergent composition, the effective amount of polymer necessary to achieve the desired performance may be lower than if no phosphate containing compound is present.

The detergent composition of this invention can be in the form of either a powder or liquid. As used herein, "liquid" also refers to a gel or a slurry. The detergent composition of this invention may include conventional machine dishwashing detergent additives well known to those skilled in the art, in conventional use amounts. For example, the detergent composition of this invention may contain an alkali metal silicate at a concentration of from 0 to about 50 percent, more preferably from about 1 to 20 percent, by weight of the detergent composition. The alkali metal silicates which may be used in the composition of the current invention generally have an $\text{SiO}_2:\text{M}_2\text{O}$ ratio (where M_2O represents the alkali metal oxide portion of the silicate) of from about 1:1 to about 3.5:1. The more preferred alkali metal silicates are the sodium silicates.

While the alkali metal silicates are an optional component of the present invention, highly alkaline dishwashing detergents containing no silicates may attack aluminum pots and pans and other metal utensils. Therefore, silicates are beneficial when corrosion inhibition of metal parts is desired.

The detergent compositions of this invention may optionally include a builder. The level of builder can be from 0 to about 90 percent, and more preferably from 20 to 90 percent, by weight of the detergent composition. However, the builder concentration is dependent on whether the detergent is a liquid or a powder. Generally, a liquid composition will contain less builder than a powder composition. By way of example, builders which may be employed in combination with the polymers useful in the present invention include water soluble inorganic builder salts such as alkali metal polyphosphates, i.e., the tripolyphosphates and pyrophosphates, alkali metal carbonates, borates, bicarbonates, and hydroxides and water soluble organic builders such as polycarboxylates including nitrilotriacetic acid, citrates, tartarates and succinates. Also, zeolite may be added as a builder in amounts from 0 to about 40 percent, and more preferably from about 5 to 20 percent by weight.

Polymeric additives can also be used in the detergent formulations. Conventional polymeric additives include, but are not limited to water-soluble homopolymers of acrylic acid, and copolymers of acrylic acid with a suitable comonomer such as maleic anhydride, and the salts of these polymers. When used, the polymeric additives are present in the detergent formulation at levels of from about 0.2 percent to about 15 percent, and preferably at a level of from about 0.2 to about 10 percent, and most preferably from about 0.5 percent to about 8 percent, by weight of the detergent formulation.

Although optional, the detergent compositions of this invention will generally contain a low-foaming water

soluble surfactant. Low-foaming surfactants are preferred for the detergent compositions of the present invention since foam reduces the mechanical efficiency of the wash spray as discussed previously. Certain low-foaming water soluble anionic, nonionic, zwitterionic, amphoteric surfactant or combinations thereof should be employed. The quantity of surfactant used in the detergent formulation will depend on the surfactant chosen and will generally be from about 0.1 to about 10 percent, and more preferably from about 1 to about 5 percent, by weight of the detergent composition.

Examples of suitable anionic surfactants include soaps such as the salts of fatty acids containing about 9 to 20 carbon atoms, e.g. salts of fatty acids derived from coconut oil and tallow; alkylbenzenesulfonates - particularly linear alkylbenzenesulfonates in which the alkyl group contains from 10 to 16 carbon atoms; alcohol sulfates; ethoxylated alcohol sulfates; hydroxyalkylsulfonates; alkenyl and alkyl sulfates and sulfonates; monoglyceride sulfates; acid condensates of fatty acid chlorides with hydroxyalkylsulfonates and the like. Because anionic surfactants tend to produce foam, it is preferred that the level of anionic surfactant is kept to a minimum and may require the use of a foam suppressant. If used, the level of anionic surfactant is preferably below 5 percent, and most preferably below 3 percent, by weight of the formulation.

Examples of suitable nonionic surfactants include alkylene oxide (e.g. ethylene oxide) condensates of mono and polyhydroxy alcohols, alkylphenols, fatty acid amides, and fatty amines; amine oxides; sugar derivatives such as sucrose monopalmitate; long chain tertiary phosphine oxides; dialkylsulfoxides; block copolymers of poly(ethylene oxide) and poly(propylene oxide); hydrophobically modified poly(ethylene oxide) surfactants; fatty acid amides, (e.g., mono or diethanolamides of fatty acids containing 10 to 18 carbon atoms), and the like. The hydrophobically modified poly(ethylene oxide) surfactants are the preferred nonionic surfactants.

Examples of suitable zwitterionic surfactants include derivatives of aliphatic quaternary ammonium compounds such as 3-(N,N-dimethyl-N-hexadecylammonio)propane-1-sulfonate and 3-(N,N-dimethyl-N-hexadecylammonio)-2-hydroxypropane-1-sulfonate.

Examples of suitable amphoteric surfactants include betaines, sulfobetaines and fatty acid imidazole carboxylates and sulfonates.

The detergent may also contain up to about 20 percent by weight of a bleaching agent, and preferably from about 0.5 to about 15 percent by weight. Suitable bleaching agents include the halogen, peroxide and peracid bleaches. Examples of suitable bleaches include sodium chlorite, potassium chlorite, sodium hypochlorite, potassium hypochlorite, sodium dichloroisocyanurate, sodium perborate, potassium perborate and sodium percarbonate.

The detergent may also contain up to about 5 percent by weight of conventional adjuvants such as perfumes, colorants, foam suppressants, enzymes and bacterial agents. When the detergent composition is in the liquid form, from 0 to 5 percent by weight of stabilizers or viscosity modifiers, such as clays and polymeric thickeners, can be added.

Inert diluents may be used in the cleaning compositions, e.g. the detergent compositions, of the present invention. For example, inert diluents such as alkali metal chlorides, sulfates, nitrates, nitrites and the like, may be used in the detergent compositions. Examples of such diluents which may be incorporated into the detergent compositions are sodium or potassium chloride, sodium or potassium sulfate, sodium or potassium nitrite, and the like. In addition, if the detergent composition is in the liquid form, water can be used as a diluent. The amount of diluent used is generally an amount to bring the total amount of the additives in the detergent composition up to 100% by weight.

The detergent composition of this invention may be used in machine dishwashers as an aqueous solution at a concentration of about 0.2 to 1.5 percent, more preferably from about 0.4 to 1 percent, by weight of the aqueous solution. The water temperature during the washing process should be about 37.8°C to 65.6°C (about 100°F to 150°F), and more preferably from about 43.3°C to 57.2°C (about 110°F to 135°F).

Test Method

The dishwashing tests were performed using a modified version of A.S.T.M. method D 3556-85, Standard Test Method for Deposition on Glassware During Mechanical Dishwashing. This test method covers a procedure for measuring performance of household automatic dishwashing detergents in terms of the buildup of spots and film on glassware. Glass tumblers were given three cycles in a dishwasher, in the presence of food soils, and the levels of spotting and filming allowed by the detergents under test were compared visually.

A Kenmore dishwashing machine was used to perform the washing tests. The bottom rack of the dishwasher was randomly loaded with 14-18 dinner plates and the top rack was randomly loaded with several beakers and cups. Four new 113.4 g (10 ounce) tumblers were placed randomly on the top racks as the test glasses. Soil used in the test was a mixture of 80% Parkay Margarine and 20% Carnation Non-fat Dry milk. The amount

of soil used for each test was usually 40 grams for the first wash.

When a test was ready to be started, the desired amount of soil was smeared across the plates on the bottom rack, the detergent for the first cycle was placed in the detergent dispenser cup, and the machine was started. A normal cycle consisted of a wash, a rinse, a second wash, and two more rinses followed by a heat-drying cycle. At the beginning of the second wash, the machine was opened and a second detergent aliquot added. Soil was not added when a second detergent dose was added. The temperature of the supply water was maintained at 48.9°C (120° F) unless noted otherwise. Tap water with a measured hardness of 200 ppm and a Ca++ to Mg++ ratio of 2.0:1 was used as supply water unless noted otherwise. The machine was then allowed to complete the normal cycle including the drying time. This procedure was followed for a total of three complete cycles for each set of glasses.

When the final drying cycle was completed, the door was opened and the four glasses were removed and evaluated for filming and spotting. The test glasses were evaluated by placing them in light box equipped with a fluorescent light. The glasses were ranked according to the following scale and the average rating for the four glasses is reported below in Table 1:

Filming		Spotting	
0	No film	0	No spots
1	Barely perceptible	1	Random
2	Slight	2	1/4 of glass
3	Moderate	3	1/2 of glass
4	Heavy	4	Complete spotting

Detergent Compositions Tested (by weight solids)

DETERGENT A 20% sodium carbonate
 12.5% sodium citrate·2H₂O
 7.5% zeolite
 5% perborate·4H₂O
 7% RU Silicate (SiO₂:Na₂O 2.4:1)
 2% Olin Poly-Tergent SLF-18 surfactant
 4% polymer (unless specifically stated otherwise)
 diluted to 100% with sodium sulfate

DETERGENT B 20% sodium carbonate
 12.5% sodium citrate·2H₂O
 7.5% zeolite
 5% perborate·4H₂O
 7% RU Silicate (SiO₂:Na₂O 2.4:1)
 4% Olin Poly-Tergent SLF-18 surfactant
 4% polymer (unless specifically stated otherwise)
 diluted to 100% with sodium sulfate

DETERGENT C 20% sodium carbonate
 30% sodium citrate·2H₂O
 20% BRITESIL H₂O Polysilicate (SiO₂:Na₂O 2.0:1)
 7.5% perborate·4H₂O
 4% Olin Poly-Tergent SLF-18 surfactant
 4% polymer (unless specifically stated otherwise)
 diluted to 100% with sodium sulfate

The polymer syntheses which follow are representative of the cofeed process suitable for preparing polymers of, and polymers useful in, the present invention. Methods of preparing the polymers of, and polymers useful in, the present invention are not limited to this procedure.

COPOLYMER SYNTHESIS 80 AA / 20 APTAC

350.0 grams of deionized water and 12.0 grams of 0.15 percent FeSO₄·7H₂O in deionized water were added to a 3-litre round bottom flask equipped with a stirrer, thermometer, condenser, heater, and inlets for monomer, and initiator solutions. The stirrer was turned on and the water was heated to 70 °C. A solution of 1.95 grams sodium metabisulfite dissolved in 5.0 grams of deionized water was added to the flask. Three feed solutions were prepared: a monomer solution of 480.0 grams glacial acrylic acid and 200.0 grams of 60 percent APTAC in deionized water; an initiator solution of 2.86 grams of sodium persulfate dissolved in 60.0 grams of deionized water; and a chain regulator solution of 32.25 grams sodium metabisulfite dissolved in 100 grams of deionized water. These solutions were fed into the flask linearly and separately over two hours (except the chain regulator solution which was fed for 105 minutes) while maintaining the mixture at 70 °C. After the feeds were completed, the mixture was maintained at 70°C for ten minutes. The data for this copolymer appear as Examples 16 and 17 in Table 1 below.

The copolymers appearing in Table 1, below, were prepared in a similar manner as the copolymer synthesis above with the monomer compositions as noted. Compositions are listed as percent by weight of the monomer mix.

TABLE 1

Example	Composition	Detergent	M _w	Spot	Film
Comparative 1	no polymer	A	—	4.0	3.2
Comparative 2	Acusol 445N ¹	A	4500	3.2	1.1
Comparative 3	80 AA/ 20 t-BAM	A	4230	3.0	2.0
Comparative 4	Acusol 445N	A ²	4500	3.5	1.7
Comparative 5	90 AA/ 10 MMA	A ²	5310	3.0	2.3
Comparative 6	95 AA/ 5 MAA	A ²	10000	2.8	2.0
1	80 AA/ 20 DMAPA	A	4680	0.5	0.5
2	90 AA/ 10 DMAPA	A	3900	2.2	1.5
3	90 AA/ 10 DMADMPA	A	3940	3.0	1.0
4	90 AA/ 10 DMADMPA	A ²	3600	3.5	0.8
5	80 AA/ 20 DMAPA	A ²	4680	1.5	0.5
Comparative 7	Acusol 445N	B	4500	2.0	0.4
Comparative 8	Acusol 445N	B ³	4500	2.7	0.8
Comparative 9	90 AA/ 10 BA	B	2950	1.7	1.2
Comparative 10	50 AA/ 50 HPA	B	4860	3.5	0.5
Comparative 11	50 AA/ 50 HEMA	B	5660	3.7	0.3
6	80 AA/ 20 DMAPA	B	4680	0.1	0.5
7	75 AA/ 25 DMAPA	B	6700	0.3	0.0
8	85 MAA/ 15 DMAPMA	B	3900	1.2	0.0
9	80 MAA/ 20 DMAPMA	B	3460	2.0	0.2
10	85 AA/ 15 APTAC	B	4020	0.2	0.0
11	80 AA/ 20 APTAC	B	3640	0.4	0.0
12	75 AA/ 25 APTAC	B	3430	0.2	0.0
13	85 AA/ 15MAPTAC	B	4120	0.5	0.0
14	80 AA/ 20 DMAEMA	B	3740	3.0	0.0
15	75 AA/ 25 DMADMPA	B	4900	1.0	0.0
16	80 AA/ 20 APTAC	B ³	4080	0.3	0.2
Comparative 12	Acusol 445N	C ³	4500	3.0	1.9
17	80 AA/ 20 APTAC	C ³	4080	0.7	0.0

¹ Acusol 445N is a fully neutralized poly(acrylic acid) having M_w 4,500. Acusol is a trademark of Rohm and Haas Company.

² These compositions were tested with 2% by weight polymer.

³ These compositions were tested at a hardness of 300 ppm wherein the ratio of Ca²⁺:Mg²⁺ was 3.5:1.

t-BAM is tertiary-butylacrylamide

HPA is hydroxypropylacrylate

HEMA is 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate

The data in Table 1 shows the effectiveness of the copolymers for enhancing the spotting and filming properties of automatic machine dishwashing detergents containing them.

TERPOLYMER SYNTHESIS 75 AA / 20 DMAPA / 5 BA

250.0 grams of deionized water and 12.0 grams of 0.15 percent FeSO₄·7H₂O in deionized water were added to a 3-litre round bottom flask equipped with a stirrer, thermometer, condenser, heater, and inlets for monomer.

EP 0 560 519 A2

and initiator solutions. The stirrer was turned on and the water was heated to 70 °C. A solution of 1.8 grams sodium metabisulfite dissolved in 10.0 grams of deionized water was added to the flask. four feed solutions were prepared: a monomer solution of 450.0 grams glacial acrylic acid and 30.0 grams butyl acrylate; a monomer solution of 120.0 grams of DMAPA; an initiator solution of 3.32 grams of sodium persulfate dissolved in 20.0 grams of deionized water; and a chain regulator solution of 30.0 grams sodium metabisulfite dissolved in 75 grams of deionized water. These solutions were fed into the flask linearly and separately over two hours (except the chain regulator solution which was fed for 105 minutes) while maintaining the mixture at 70 °C. After the feeds were completed, the mixture was maintained at 70°C for ten minutes. The data for this terpolymer appears as Example 5 in Table 2 below.

The terpolymers appearing in Table 2, below, were prepared in a similar manner as the terpolymer synthesis above with the monomer compositions as noted. Compositions are listed as percent by weight of the monomer mix.

TABLE 2

Example	Composition	M _w	Spot	Film
Comparative 13	Acusol 445N ¹	4500	3.5	1.0
Comparative 14	Acusol 445N	4500	2.0	0.4
Comparative 15	Acusol 445N ⁵	4500	2.7	0.8
18	88 AA/ 5 DIMAPA/ 7 BA	4220	3.0	0.6
19	83 AA/10 DIMAPA/ 7 BA	4010	2.5	0.7
20	78 AA/15 DIMAPA/ 7 BA	4510	0.0	0.2
21	75 AA/20 DIMAPA/ 5 BA	4450	0.1	0.1
22	75 AA/20 DIMAPA/ 5 BA ⁵	4800	0.2	0.3
23	80 AA/15 DIMAPA/5 BA	4080	1.0	0.0
24	80 AA/15 DIMAPA/5 STY	6510	1.5	0.0
25	83 AA/10 DIMAPMA/ 7BA	4180	2.5	0.6
26	80 AA/15 DIMAPMA/ 5 BA	4180	3.5	0.0
27	80 AA/15 DIMAPMA/ 5 STY	6560	0.5	0.2
28	75 AA/15 DIMAPMA/10 MMA	4780	0.9	0.0
29	70 AA/15 DIMAPMA/15 MMA	4790	3.2	0.0
30	75 AA/20 DIMAPMA/5 STY	6010	0.5	0.0
31	75 AA/20 DIMAPMA/5 BA	6490	0.8	0.0
32	80 AA/15 DMAEMA/5 BA	5120	1.5	0.0
33	75 AA/20 DMAEMA/5 tBAM	5330	3.0	0.0
34	75 AA/20 DMAEMA/5 STY	5480	3.0	0.0
35	75 AA/20 DMAEMA/5 BA	4420	1.5	0.0
36	75 AA/20 DMAEMA/5 EA	4260	2.5	0.0
37	80 AA/15 t-BAEMA/5 BA	4020	3.2	0.0
38	74 AA/21 DMAPMA/5 BA	5210	0	0.3 ²
39	75 AA/20 APTAC/5 BA ⁵	3970	1.0	0.2
40	55 AA/40 APTAC/5 BA ³	4660	0	3.2 ²
41	75 AA/20 DMAEA/5 BA	5120	0	0.6 ²
42	55 AA/ 20 MALAC/20 APTAC /5 AMPSA ⁴	6270	0	0.2 ²
43	3% Example 21 / 1% Acusol 445N		0	0.2
44	2% Example 21 / 2% Acusol 445N		0	0.3
45	2% Example 22 / 2% Acusol 445N ⁵		0.3	0.3
46	1% Example 21 / 3% Acusol 445N		0	0.1

¹ Example 18 was tested in a detergent composition containing only 2% by weight

surfactant. Acusol 445N is a fully neutralized poly(acrylic acid) having M_w 4,500. Acusol is a trademark of Rohm and Haas Company.

² These compositions were tested at a cycle temperature of 57.2°C (135°F) and hardness of 300 ppm wherein the ratio of Ca²⁺:Mg²⁺ was 3.5:1.

3 Dilute sulfuric acid solution was added during polymerization to maintain pH between 1.0 and 3.5.

4 Prepared by a thermal process using mixed initiator system of 4.8 weight percent sodium persulfate based on active monomer and 4.0 percent hydrogen peroxide

based on active monomer. Dilute NaOH was added during the polymerization

to maintain in-process pH between 3.5 and 7.0.

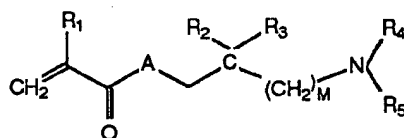
5 These compositions were tested at a hardness of 300 ppm wherein the ratio of $\text{Ca}^{2+}:\text{Mg}^{2+}$ was 3.5:1.

The data in Table 2 shows the effectiveness of the polymers of the present invention for enhancing the spotting and filming properties of automatic machine dishwashing detergents (Detergent B) containing them. "Acusol", "Poly-Tergent" and "BRITESIL" are trademarks which may be registered in one or more of the designated countries.

Claims

1. A method of improving the spotting and filming characteristics of cleaning compositions, which comprises adding to a cleaning composition one or more water-soluble polymer comprising, as polymerized units:-
 - (a) from 95 to 30 percent by weight of one or more monomer selected from $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof;
 - (b) from 5 to 50 percent by weight of one or more aminoacryloyl derivative selected from:

(i)



wherein:

R_1 is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

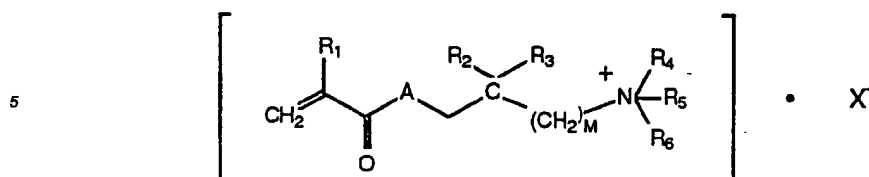
A is selected from O and NH;

R_2 and R_3 are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R_2 and R_3 , together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7$ aliphatic ring;

M is equal to 0, 1, or 2 with the proviso that when M is equal to 0, a C-N bond appears in place of the $(\text{CH}_2)_M$ group; and

R_4 and R_5 are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl; or R_4 and R_5 , together with the carbon to which they are both attached, form a $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7$ aliphatic ring;

and (ii)



wherein:

R_1 , A, R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and M are as defined above;

R_6 is selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, t-butyl, and isobutyl;

and X^- is any suitable counterion, for example, a halogen, hydroxide, sulfate, hydrosulfate, phosphate, formate or acetate; and (c) optionally, from 3 to 25 percent by weight of one or more monoethylenically unsaturated monomer polymerisable with (a) and (b); with the proviso that if (c) comprises one or more C_3 - C_8 monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof, then said one or more monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof is not the same as (a); in an amount effective to improve the spotting and filming characteristics.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein (a) is selected from: acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, α -ethacrylic acid, β , β -dimethylacrylic acid, methylenemalononic acid, vinylacetic acid, allylacetic acid, ethylideneacetic acid, propylideneacetic acid, crotonic acid, maleic acid, maleic anhydride, fumaric acid, itaconic acid, citraconic acid, mesaconic acid, and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein (b) is selected from: N,N-dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] acrylamide, N-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl] methacrylamide, tert-butylaminoethyl methacrylate, (3-acrylamidopropyl)trimethylammonium chloride, (3-methacrylamidopropyl)trimethylammonium chloride, and N-[3-(dimethylamino)-2,2-dimethylpropyl]acrylamide.
4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the weight average molecular weight of the polymer is from 500 to 100,000.
5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the one or more water-soluble polymer comprises, as polymerized units, from 95 to 60 percent by weight of (a), and from 5 to 40 percent by weight of (b).
6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein (a) is present at a level of from 70 to 90 percent by weight.
7. A method as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6, wherein (b) is present at a level of from 10 to 30 percent by weight.
8. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the one or more water-soluble polymer comprises, as polymerized units, from 92 to 30 percent by weight of (a), from 5 to 50 percent by weight of (b), and from 3 to 25 percent by weight of (c).
9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein (a) is present at a level of from 40 to 85 percent by weight.
10. A method as claimed in claim 8 or claim 9, wherein (b) is present at a level of from 5 to 40 percent by weight.
11. A method as claimed in any of claims 8 to 10, wherein (c) is selected from C_3 - C_8 monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids and alkali metal and ammonium salts thereof, C_1 - C_4 alkyl esters of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid, C_1 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl esters of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid, acrylamide, alkyl substituted acrylamides, N,N-dialkyl substituted acrylamides, styrene, sulfonated styrene, sulfonated alkyl acrylamides, vinyl sulfonates, vinylsulfonic acid, allylsulfonic acid, methallylsulfonic acid, vinylphosphonic acid, vinylacetate, allyl alcohols, sulfonated allyl alcohols, acrylonitrile, N-vinylpyrrolidone, N-vinylformamide, N-vinylimidazole, N-vinylpyridine, and N-vinyl-2-methylimidazoline; with the proviso that

if (c) comprises one or more C₃-C₈ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof, then said one or more monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or alkali metal or ammonium salt thereof is not the same as (a).

- 5 12. A method as claimed in any of claims 8 to 10, wherein (c) is selected from methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, butyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, butyl methacrylate, hydroxyethyl acrylate, hydroxypropyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl methacrylate, acrylamide, N-t-butyl acrylamide, N-t-octylacrylamide, N,N-dimethyl acrylamide, piperidine acrylamide, styrene, sulfonated styrene, vinylsulfonic acid, allylsulfonic acid, methallylsulfonic acid, vinylphosphonic acid, vinylacetate, acrylonitrile, N-vinylpyrrolidone, N-vinylformamide, N-vinylimidazole, N-vinylpyridine, N-vinyl-2-methylimidazoline, and 2-acrylamido methylpropane sulfonic acid.
- 10 13. A method as claimed in any of claims 8 to 12, wherein (c) is present at a level of from 3 to 20 percent by weight.
- 15 14. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the polymer is present in the composition at a level of from about 0.2 to about 10 percent by weight.
- 20 15. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the cleaning composition is an automatic machine dishwashing detergent composition.
- 25 16. A cleaning composition, which comprises a water-soluble polymer as defined in any of claims 1 to 13.
- 30 17. A cleaning composition as claimed in claim 16 which is in the form of an automatic machine dishwashing detergent composition.
- 35 18. A cleaning composition as claimed in claim 17, wherein the polymer is present at a level of 0.2 to 10 percent by weight.
- 40 19. A water-soluble polymer as defined in any of claims 8 to 13.
- 45 20. A method of making a polymer as defined in any of claims 8 to 13, which comprises contacting a mixture of monomers (a), (b) and (c) with an initiator in an amount effective to polymerize said mixture, and maintaining the mixture at an elevated temperature to produce the polymer product.
- 50 21. A method as claimed in claim 20, which further comprises utilizing a solvent, for example, water.
- 55 22. A method as claimed in claim 20 or claim 21, wherein one or more of (a), (b) and (c) are fed into a reactor at an elevated temperature.
23. Use, in a cleaning composition, for example an automatic machine dishwashing composition, of one or more water-soluble polymer as defined in any of claims 1 to 13, to improve the spotting and filming characteristics of the composition.